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and move us into the future with a high-wage, high-growth economy.

As I said last Thursday night, what we really need is a new American Government for this new American economy in the 21st century, one that is creative and flexible, that's a high-quality, low-cost producer of services that the American people need and that can best be provided at the national level. The best thing we can do in this process is to follow the model that smart companies have done, which is to develop a good plan, put good people in charge, and pursue the goal with vigor.

I am confident that I chose the right person to lead the reinventing Government effort. I want to thank the Vice President and all of his team. They have done wonderful work. And I'd like now to turn the podium over to Vice President Gore.

[*At this point, the Vice President outlined the reinventing Government plan and introduced the agency officials who presented the new proposals.*]

North Korea

Q. Can we ask the President a question?

The President. Let me just—let me make a brief statement. I want to say just two things about the North Korean situation. First of all, I called the families of the two soldiers involved today to express my concern and, in the case of the gentleman who was killed, my condolences, to the family. And I told them what I can tell you. I've worked on this all weekend. I'm going to keep working on it, and we're working on an early resolution of it. We're doing the very best we can. I don't have any details to tell you now.

As you know, I think, Congressman Richardson is in North Korea, and he is working with us and also doing a very fine job. I have nothing else to say at this time, except it's a high priority, we're working on it, and we're going to do our best to resolve it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Remarks Announcing the Selection of Joseph Brann as Top Cop

December 19, 1994

Thank you very much, Chief Brann, for your remarks and your commitment. We're delighted to have you and your fine family here and on board. Chief Sanders, thank you for your remarks and for your work. To General Reno and to Director and former Chief Brown, and the Deputy Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General, to the Members of Congress who are here, and the mayors, and other leaders of people who will benefit from this work that is being done. This is a very happy day for the people of the United States.

I ran for President because I wanted to restore the American dream and bring this country together as we move into the 21st century. And there were three sort of slogans that, from time to time, I used to try to capture what I thought we ought to be about. One was ''putting people first,'' restore the values of middle class America. The other was, ''Don't stop thinking about tomorrow,'' which basically means we're hurtling into the future at a rapid rate, and we better prepare for it. The third was the idea that we needed a covenant in this country, not just a deal but a covenant, a solemn agreement that we would attempt in the Government to provide more opportunity, but that the citizens of America would assume more personal responsibility for themselves, their families, and then in the process we would build the American community again.

We can't do any of that if the people of this country feel afraid on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools. And we are taking a stand against that. But we're also doing it in a way that reinforces our commitment to thinking about the future and the need for people to assume more personal responsibility, all of us.

When I had the honor of addressing the Nation last Thursday night, and I was able to outline the middle class bill of rights, which will be at the center of our agenda when the Congress comes back, to give people the opportunity to invest in their chil-

dren's education, in the raising of their children, in savings so that the money will be there if it's needed for health care or caring for a parent or preparing for future education, I said that we were going to do that not by increasing the Government deficit or raising taxes but by reducing the size of Government, by paying for it.

The deficit of this country quadrupled in the 12 years before I became President, and I want you to think about this when you make out your income tax check in April: 28 cents of every dollar you pay to us next April will go to pay for the interest run up on the debt accumulated between 1981 and January of 1993.

So today the Vice President and I announced some dramatic changes in reductions in the Federal Government, cutting yesterday's Government so we could invest in tomorrow's community empowerment through the middle class bill of rights. But the first example of doing that is what we're here to celebrate today, the crime bill. Cut and invest.

We did not raise the deficit a penny to pay for the crime bill. We did not raise taxes a penny to pay for the crime bill. The Congress supported a reduction in the Federal Government to its smallest size in 30 years so that we could put these 100,000 police on the street. That is an example of what the Government should be doing to exercise its responsibility to give people at the community level and law enforcement and the local leaders the power they need to move forward.

And I'd like to say that I'm very proud of everything that was in that crime bill. I'm proud of the 100,000 police. I'm proud of the punishment and the prevention. I believe in ''three strikes and you're out,'' and I believe in trying to keep kids from making the first strike. And I think most law enforcement people do as well. And I believe that those of you who live and work in our communities, know best what your problems are and can best solve them.

One of the things that I learned as a Governor for a dozen years is that we really do need national leadership in many areas, but when it comes to deciding exactly how to solve problems, and how to seize opportunities, there's very little I can do in Washington, DC, that will solve the problems that Chief Sanders deals with in San Diego, except to give him the tools to do the job. That is the ultimate decision that the Congress made in the crime bill.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Chief Brann for agreeing to come all the way across the country to the most regularly condemned city in America, Washington, DC, to do this job. He was selected in part because he believed in community policing. And you heard that today.

One of the new ideas that I came across as I traveled the country was this whole idea of community policing, not just as a device for patrolling the streets but as the chief said, as a philosophy of law enforcement. And it makes so much sense. You've already heard that we have now put about 10,000 of our 100,000 police officers in process to be on the street. And we're going to keep going until it's all done.

Today we have over 600 jurisdictions in our country who are going to get police officers: over 300 in Chicago, almost 50 in San Diego—that's not why the chief came here to brag on this, though; he really believes in it—almost 100 in Detroit, nearly 80 in Baltimore, over 150 in Philadelphia.

Not long ago, I received a letter jointly signed by the mayor and the police chief of Odessa, Texas. That was one of the first cities to receive community policing money from the crime bill. They told me that since they began to institute aggressive community policing, serious crimes have dropped 43 percent, fewer murders, fewer rapes, fewer robberies, fewer assaults. I say this to make this point: One of the things that I saw happening out in America when this crime bill was being debated in Congress is that the American people one day would wake up and they would cheer the Congress for trying to deal with crime. And then someone would raise a question about this effort or that effort or the other effort, and their cynicism would rise up because they said, ''Oh, the crime rate has been going up for 30 years, and it's terrible, and it's never going to get any better, and nobody can do anything about it.''

That is wrong. The crime rate can go down, just as it came up. And we are commit-

ted to taking it down. Ultimately, the purpose of the crime bill is to give people at the grassroots the power to lower the crime rate, not to hire more police, to have fewer crimes. That is the purpose of what we are doing. And it can happen. It happened in Odessa, Texas. It's happened in a lot of big cities around this country. It can happen all over America.

I know that Members of this new Congress have some ideas about fighting crime. I welcome those ideas. I ask them only to remember that we should do what was done in the last Congress: listen to the people in law enforcement; listen to the people in community organizations; listen to the people at the grassroots level who know how to catch criminals, but who also know how to prevent crime and lower the crime rate. If we listen to people at the grassroots level and enlist ourselves as your supporters, then we can continue to make progress on crime. But I also have to say that I don't think we should turn back on the progress we have made. We shouldn't give up on this community policing program. We ought to keep going until there are 100,000 more police on the street. And I'm going to do my dead-level best to make sure we don't turn back.

I'm going to come up with plenty of budget cuts. But we shouldn't cut the money that Lee Brown and people all over America need for drug prevention, drug education, drug treatment, things to lower the problem of drugs so we can lower the crime rate in that way. We shouldn't do that.

And even though we did not have a majority in both parties for the Brady bill, and we certainly didn't have a majority in both parties for the assault weapons ban last time, I think we ought to leave them right where they are. We ought to stay with it, and go forward and implement it.

I think all of you know that there's one thing the skeptics said during the crime bill debate that was right. It wasn't an argument to vote against the crime bill, but it was true. We can pass all these laws and come up with all this money and all these prohibitions, but if we don't implement it right at the grassroots level, the crime rate won't go down. That is true. We could have 50 crime bills and a million police officers, and if the American people don't join in the fight, the crime rate won't go down.

So the last thing that I'd like to say is that if community policing is more than a deployment of police officers, and is really a philosophy of law enforcement, it is two words: police and community. That means that neighbors have to help neighbors, parents have to raise kids, that schools have to do things they didn't used to have to do. But if we do this together, then this community policing can be the banner of a safer America. And if we can lower the crime rate again, and make people feel safer on their streets, in their homes, and in their schools, we will begin to see this country coming together as a community again, we will begin to see people believing in our country again, we will begin to see people willing to make sacrifices for the common good again.

For all that all of you have done to that end, I thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Justice Department. In his remarks, he referred to Police Chief Joseph Brann of Hayward, CA, who will administer the President's police hiring program, and Police Chief Jerry Sanders of San Diego, CA.

Remarks on Presenting Medals for Service in Operation Uphold Democracy

December 20, 1994

Secretary Perry, Admiral Owens, members of the Joint Chiefs; to General Shelton and Mrs. Shelton, members of the Shelton family; to the representatives of each of our military services who served in Haiti and their families; all the other distinguished guests here, welcome to the Rose Garden.

We gather today to honor General Shelton and members of our Armed Forces for their service to our Nation in Operation Uphold Democracy. All those who have served and all those who still serve in Haiti have served with extraordinary skill, courage, and dedication.

For 3 years the United States and other countries throughout the world tried everything short of force to remove Haiti's illegal military regime and to restore its democrat-